

The
Weekend
Of

Aug. 25
2018

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club
Located at Latitude 41.9153; Longitude -85.8793

Elev 912ft



Thanks to Bad Patty Luecht for the MC action pic of Barb and Maggie Cassady sailing in the races last weekend.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello Everyone, the Fall Dinner was a massive success, my opinion of course! The Fall Dinner was an emotional roller coaster; we had laughter, tears, caramel apples, yummy food and reflected on the year. Attendees got to catch up with neighbors and share insightful information about Birch Lake. We also got to meet some new people to the lake which was exciting!

Patty Leucht received the honorable award of the Birch Lake person of the year. Bill Leucht won the 50/50, which half the money went towards our 2018 firework debt. In total, we raised \$177.50 for the Fireworks. Many attendees gave additional money in the donation boxes. We raised \$10 additional dollars for Water Quality and \$35 dollars for Fireworks. Next year, the

Fireworks are expected to increase in price to \$10,000.

Speaking of dynamic, I am sure you want to know who your new Vice Commodore is ... Pat McGann is your new Vice Commodore. Pat will be an excellent vice commodore based on his love for the lake, his passion for our community and his kindness. Pat loves sailing and is always available to give you a kind word. As you can imagine being Vice Commodore or Commodore is not a solo position but one that takes your whole family to support you during the journey. If you don't know Pat, take the time to say Hello and congratulate him and Tessa on their new role at the lake!

Karen Curtis Miller handed over the Commodore duties at the Fall Dinner. If you see Karen, be sure to thank her for her work as the Commodore this past year. Karen is truly remarkable! Karen is dedicated and strives to improve Birch Lake.

2018

Birch Lake Calendar

Aug 25 - All-Sunfish regatta, 11 am
TBA- Soup/Chili Challenge
Sept 1 - Pooch Parade
Sept 2 - Sunday Night Flotilla, 6 pm

2018 BLYC Board Meetings
Sept - TBA, 9 am

Karen wants Birch Lake to be more of a community where we all can cohabitate in this paradise we are so fortunate to witness. Karen sacrificed her time these past two years; many books did not get read on the pier, mimosas went un-drunk (maybe, not), her tan was sacrificed (well?) but she did sacrifice time. Karen could have spent the summer on the pier and relishing in the sun with her new adorable grandson. Instead she spent her time this summer to make

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. **Deadline is 3 pm on Tuesday.** E-mail sailorphil@philvital.com, or put the items in the stone/mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos or other material returned. To contact Editor Phil by phone, call (269) 476-1680, or to contact Commodore Angela Bergan, call 561-603-5522 or email berganfsu@aol.com.

— Birch Lake Notes —

sure Birch Lake activities ran successfully and listened to her neighbors. Karen always gave her time to our fellow lake lovers and tried to take your opinions into consideration and incorporate your ideas. Karen wrote amazing articles in the Baker these past few months and I will miss reading her melodic words. Please if you see Karen, thank her for being a great Commodore!

I would like to Thank Karen for being a great mentor to me. I would also like to Thank each one of you who attended the Fall Dinner, I appreciate your support! An additional special thank you to my husband, Nick Bergan, who I could not have pulled off the fall dinner without. Nick was opening bottles, sharing laughs, taking out trash, icing down beer, stacking chairs and so on and so forth. He's pretty much Superman, and I could not have done it without him! I would also like to thank my parents Jim & Linda Bergan for all their help from making apples, picking up flowers, setting up and cleaning up. Thank you to Bruce Wagner for being the assistant to the commodore and helping me sell 50/50 tickets, monitoring the A/C, run errands, shop for decor at Dollar General and carrying those big bags of ice. Thank you to Traci Limes for her assistance with writing the name tags and decorating flower jars. Thank you to Bob Waddle for cleaning the



LET'S CELEBRATE our animal friends with a parade and fundraiser for the Cass County Humane Society! The fourth annual Birch Lake Pooch Parade will be held Labor Day weekend, Saturday, September 1st (rain date Sept. 2nd). Registration starts at 10:00 am with the parade starting at 10:30. The Grand Marshall will be our very own super animal lover Linda Curtis. Birch Lake dogs and their owners are invited to meet at Ed and Carla Chester's home, 63614 Birch Road, to kick off Labor Day weekend with our annual Pooch Parade. After the 10:00 registration, the parade will begin at the Chesters' at 10:30 and proceed north on Birch Road, making a loop at the Kinsey Street marina (the pier for the hill) and ending back at the Chesters' house for the award ceremony. If a dog or dog owner tires, there will be several carts available as part of the parade. Costumes are encouraged. Parking for spectators and participants will be available at designated marked areas along the parade route. Spectators, bring lawn chairs! A donation box will be available for donations to the CASS COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY and event expenses. Let's exceed our last year's donation of \$187 and surpass the \$200 mark! Prizes will be awarded in these categories: Best Costume, Largest Dog, Smallest Dog, Cutest Dog, Best Owner-Pet Lookalike, Bushiest Tail, Longest Ears, and more. All Canine participants receive doggy treats!

Simply STUNNING

Have you seen the stunning stamped-concrete compass rose at the Birch Lake Yacht Club?

This is just one example of the custom concrete services and products available to our friends and neighbors here at Birch Lake.

Interested in a whole new look for your plain old concrete garage, patio or entrance?

Call us today!

Lutz Concrete

SW Michigan's FLATWORK experts

17050 M-86 — Three Rivers, MI

(269) 279-7973

mmtlconcrete@aol.com



Birch Lake Notes

Yacht Club prior to the dinner it was sparkling. Thank you to Patti Russwurm, Linda Rasmussen, Linda Bergan, Karen Curtis-Miller and Sue Williams for selling tickets! You can see it really does take a village!

Lastly, I want to urge everyone of you to do something different. Please reach out get to know your neighbors. Invite someone to an event next year. Maybe it is someone who has not come to an event in a long time or just doesn't have anyone to come with to an event.

I understand people are hesitant to be a BLYC Members due to some sort of stigma. I would like to see people change their mind and consider being a part of the Birch Lake Community. A yacht club member is just a title, the money for your membership goes to support the lake and our community.

Last week, I read Terry Dugan's kind words about his wife Carol and how he asked all of us to do something kind. I can appreciate the gesture of kindness and how we all need more of it. So please be kind to one another, help one another and let's build a better community for all of us at Birch Lake.

~Commodore Angela Bergan

Sunday Night Flotilla

Due to the past successful flotillas, let's do it again on Sunday Sept. 2, at 6 pm. Meet in the middle with your boat.

Bring an Appetizer. Boats will be tied together, and we will walk from boat to boat sharing food and camaraderie. Look for the boats in the middle! Adults only!

The Commodore's Award

I think most lakers know that there is a Commodore Award given out each year at the Fall Dinner/Annual Meeting. This year, the award went to **Patty Luecht**. Here is the announcement I made at the Fall Dinner: "I think one of the most difficult tasks I had as Commodore was narrowing down to one person the recipient of the Commodore's Award. I had a few well deserving people that came to mind – which just goes to show what a great community we're all a part of ... there are many worthy people! This year's Commodore's award for outstanding service to the lake goes to someone who happens to be my friend as well as my neighbor. She calls herself "Bad," but there are so many adjectives that describe her better. Patty Luecht is kind and caring. She's also fun, ornery and always looking to celebrate! She IS the Committee Boat, and the force behind every Sunday sailboat race and Birch Lake Regatta, with her self-proclaimed 'voice of a nightingale' belting out over the speakers to give the sailors their course and count them down for their start. (If you've never served on the Committee Boat, volunteer some Sunday – no experience



required ... but trust me, it will be quite an experience!). Patty has served as the Chair Person for the Ladies' Golf Outing for the past 10 years, incorporating quirky little shenanigans on the course and ensuring, as mentioned earlier, that there's a party atmosphere! She has recently volunteered to be on a soon to be established Poker Run committee. She served as Commodore in 2014, which was our year of pinkness, and has served on the BLYC Board of Directors since 2012. Patty is best known for being the ultimate hostess at The Flamingo Room, which she shares with her husband Bill and kids Katie, Sam and John. Just look for the pink lights and stop by to "flamingle" and congratulate her on the Commodore's Award."



FRANKIE'S
BY THE TRACKS

BACK ON TRACK!

56951 N. Main St.
Three Rivers, MI

(269) 273-9015



This year Frankie's has DONE IT AGAIN...

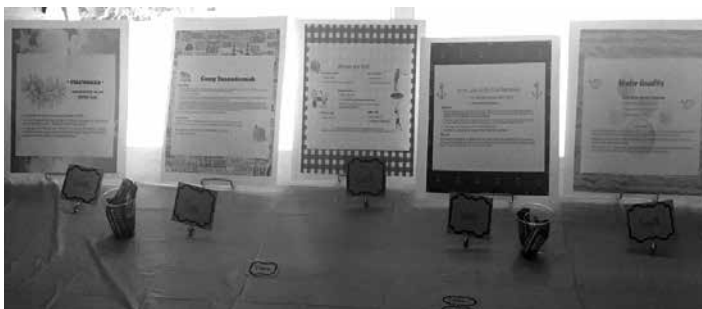
By showing even more of our traditions. More items are made from scratch, and we are putting a little more love into the food and service. We added new menu items, offering healthier choice options, gave the kid's menu more thought, and are doing new, exciting specials. Follow us on Facebook to see the National Food Holiday's we are celebrating. It's a new twist on our classic menu, giving our guests something to try in a fun way.

YOU'RE GONNA LOVE IT!

Open M-Th 11-10, Friday & Saturday 11-11 Closed Sunday. Daily food & drink specials

Follow us on Facebook at [frankiesbythetracks](https://www.facebook.com/frankiesbythetracks)

BLYC Fall Dinner



Just down the road

It's not MARGARITAVILLE... it's

ZIMMYVILLE

THE REALITY ZIMMYS TAVERN

NEW YORK MICHIGAN

NOTE: WE'RE TOO SMALL TO HAVE A FORMAL DRESSING ROOM... SO WE TAKE TURNS!

WHERE YOU'RE NEVER A STRANGER THAN ANYONE ELSE!

Daily food specials, cold beer, music, lots of fun!

Open 7 days/wk 11 am to Midnight

69608 Sunset Blvd Zimmyville (Union), Michigan

ZIMMY'S TAVERN

(269) 641-5317

<http://www.zimmystavern.com>

The LAKE LIFE REALTY GROUP



Get a **FREE** market analysis!
 Contact Paul DeLano:
269-445-8877
 Paul@TheLakeLife.com

Birch Lake homes for sale



14948 LakeShore Dr
\$475,000
 3 beds 2 baths
 102 feet of frontage

269-445-8877

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO LIST YOUR HOME!
 CALL
PAUL DELANO
TODAY



14991 LakeShore Dr
\$375,000
 3 beds 2.5 baths
 83 feet of frontage
Oversized Garage

Paul@TheLakeLife.com



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Fleet Captain's Gibe #16 by J. Patrick McGann

Sunday again brought some light, variable-speed winds that caused us to delay the start an hour until noon. After a heated discussion about whether we should or should not even sail at all, wisdom of the sailors prevailed and we got in all three fun races. We did have one skipper capsize but righted the boat himself, and with the warm water, all was good.

After the races the East Side Sailing Club hosted another after-sail gathering to review the day's results and to enjoy each other's company, with about 10 sailors and family members coming over.

In the first race I again made an error and fouled Rick Russwurm by hitting his boat with my boom on a run downwind and almost getting it stuck in his centerboard, so he says (?), I did not see it myself. So, I had to do a 360-degree turn as a penalty,

which maybe cost me a win. I did manage to win the last race after I took a good tack and caught some wind the others did not see.

Peter Soldoto won the other two Sunfish races almost assuring himself the seasonal 1st-place finish. With the Cassadys' second MC coming out, we were able to make the three-boat minimum in the MC class. Scott Troeger sailed to three 1st-place finishes again, helping his hopes for another season championship.

For the second time, due to lack of wind, I have rescheduled the Special All Sunfish Class Race(s) to this Saturday, Aug. 25, at 11 am, or noon, depending on the wind. Watch for the big yellow buoys to go out, if they do we will be racing an hour later. Lets get lots of Sunfish out there. Call/text me if you want to sail but don't have a boat, or if you have a boat and would like someone else to sail it for you.

Thanks to all the people who gave me positive remarks about my article last week about the Outdoor Chapel



mass at Camp Eberhart.

Please Become a member of the BLYC. "Its for the good of our lake!" If you don't know whether you have already paid your 2018 dues or not, shoot Deb Spratt a text or call at 574-276-8783 to find out.

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes

~JPM

2018 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Race	24	25	26	Total	Point	Captain's	Points	Average	Races	Total
Date	19-Aug	19-Aug	19-Aug	Points	Average	Bonus	w/bonus	w/bonus	Finished	MC Races: 24

MC	24	25	26	Total	Point	Captain's	Points	Average	Races	Total
Barb Cassidy #2506	2	2	2	32427	1544.14	1521	33948	1616.57	21	88%
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	1	37154	1548.08	1600	38754	1614.75	24	100%
Phil Vitale #500				26008	1444.89	1444	27452	1525.11	18	75%
Bill Luecht #1579				26765	1408.68	1369	28134	1480.74	19	79%
Maggie Cassidy	3	3		2888	1444.00		2888	1444.00	2	8%
Tom Cassidy			3	1444	1444.00		1444	1444.00	1	4%
Bob King #1199				9962	1423.14		9962	1423.14	7	29%

Sunfish	24	25	26	Total	Point	Captain's	Points	Average	Races	Total
Peter Soldato	1	1	2	38444	1537.76	2969	41413	1656.52	25	96%
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	2	4	3	34711	1509.17	2890	37601	1634.83	23	88%
Pat McGann	3	3	1	36947	1421.04	3121	40068	1541.08	26	100%
Herb Cleveland	5	6	7	33961	1306.19	2888	36849	1417.27	26	100%
Bob Niezgodski	7	7	4	19648	1228.00	2592	22240	1390.00	16	62%
Stewart Spratt	4	2	5	26051	1371.11		26051	1371.11	19	73%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)				16381	1365.08		16381	1365.08	12	46%
Jeff Walls				20366	1198.00	2450	22816	1342.12	17	65%
Amy Troeger				7504	1250.67		7504	1250.67	6	23%
Bill Butler	6	5		12146	1214.60		12146	1214.60	10	38%
Chris Scofield				3474	1158.00		3474	1158.00	3	12%
Camille Butler	8	8	6	20026	1112.56		20026	1112.56	18	69%
Stephen (Cam's brother-in-law)				1089	1089.00		1089	1089.00	1	4%

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season; DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place); DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed; DNF (Did Not Finish), scored as last place; CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total; Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.); Season Place = total season points/number of races attempted; Crew - Counted toward completed races, Points go to skipper of boat.



Birchie Sighting

Thanks to Cindy Bernaciak (east side) for the photos of the orange-ish Birchie that has been terrorizing the lake this summer.

— Birch Lake Decor —



Thanks to Pat McGann for providing the Lake Decor this week (from Zimmy's).

Bill and Carol Myers (west side) built in 2010, and had an idea for naming their cottage. They finally got around to it this summer, calling it "Recess."

WELCOME HOME.

SUNDAYS

9:30 & 11:30 AM

RIVERSIDE-CHURCH.COM

General Handyman Services



Need something repaired replaced or maintained? Let me see if I can help!
Lake references available.



APOLLOMARINE.net



We rent
Pontoon
Boats!

We
service
all lakes!

**OPEN 7 DAYS
in Season!**

South side of Gravel Lake
15355 96th Avenue, Lawton, Mi 49065

269-423-611 1-888-BOAT

MH
McGann Hay
 FUNERALS | CREMATIONS | GATHERINGS
 SINCE 1842

Granger Chapel
 • Large Rooms • Children's Room
 • Spacious Cafe/Lounge

574-232-1411
www.mcgannhay.com

"The perfect location between Michigan and Indiana"

Pat & Tessa McGann, Birch Lake Residents, Eastside

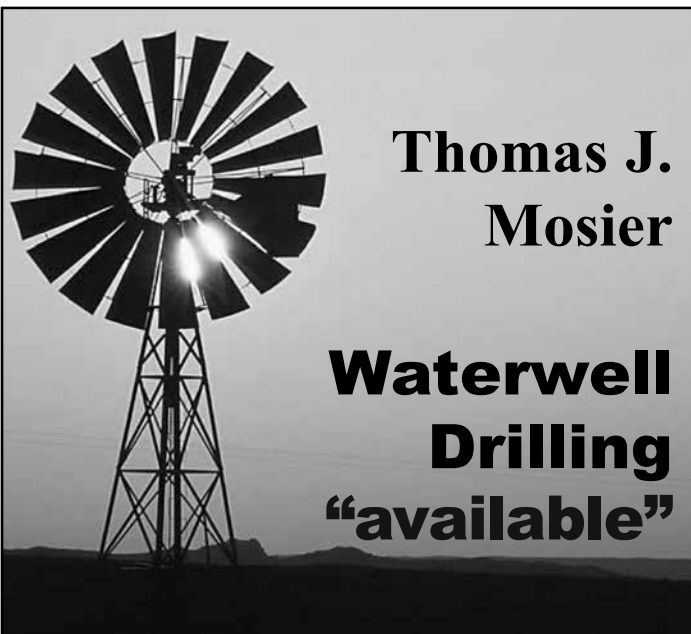
— Barker Kids of the Week —



Sally Deckard of Bloomington, IN was visiting Bad Patty Luecht (east side) for a very memorable college reunion.



Barry DeCoudres, Tim Burchell, John Ball, Justin Bratt, (east and south side) proud members of the Mimosa Tribe.



**Thomas J.
Mosier**

**Waterwell
Drilling
“available”**

5” Water Wells

**Repair & Service
Most Water Pumps**

“Promise of Quality

**M-60 E
Cassopolis**

**Office: 269-445-3246
Cell: 269-580-3246
Fax: 269-445-0008**

Enjoy the moment...

knowing your local independent agent,
and the company that stands behind them,
has your family covered.



UNION
INSURANCE AGENCY, LLC

SUE MCCAMMON
Owner/Agent

*“For all your MI and IN Insurance needs”
Personal and Commercial*

CALL TODAY! SAVE YOURSELF SOME MONEY!

15479 U.S. 12 (next to post office) 269/641-5995
P.O. Box 74 sue@unionins.net 800/888-4095
Union, MI 49130 www.unionins.net FAX 269/641-5787

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Above: Gabriel (Gabe) Grosclaude, nephew of Eric & Karen Miller, visiting from Switzerland with his new U.S. friends Tavia & Tristin Bratt (South Side).



Right: It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a Flying Wallenda, it's the headless horseman ... no, it's Tristin Bratt (South Side) enjoying his time in the middle of the lake.

Welcome to Jaywalker



Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!
10188 US 12, Mottville
on the beautiful St. Joseph River
(269) 483-2305

alphagraphics®

GET NOTICED. GET BUSINESS.

660 County Road 15,
Elkhart, IN 46516
574-295-1203
us599@alphagraphics.com
us599.alphagraphics.com

Eagle Lake Marine

SALES * SERVICE * STORAGE

SanPan, Aqua Patio, Sweetwater Pontoon,
Hurricane Deck Boats, Honda Outboards,
Mercury Outboards, Yamaha Outboards and
MerCruiser Stern Drives



Eaglelakemarine.com
269-699-5103

South side of Eagle Lake, Edwardsburg, MI



**Bubba's Market, LLC
HAS MOVED!**

*Under the Yellow Tent
in the heart of Union*

Jim "Bubba" Baldwin
Owner

Hours of Operation:
10 am - 7 p m
Friday - Sunday

574.596.5752
jlald66@gmail.com
facebook.com/bubbasmarket

574.596.5752
jlald66@gmail.com
facebook.com/bubbasmarket

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Comm Karen's Cheering Squad consisting of Tim Burchell, Eric Miller, Justin & Tabby Bratt ... offering words of encouragement prior to Annual Meeting and farewell speech.



The Pettys (North Shore) sure had fun with all the cousins!

Sale With Susie!

Your Waterfront Specialist



**Waterfront Specialist
Serving Michigan
and Indiana**

**SUSIE TUCKER
REALTY**

574-320-6697 Cell

269-641-5775 Office

www.susietucker.com

Susie@susietucker.com



Zillow
★★★★★
5-STAR AGENT



susie@susietucker.com 574-320-6697



**ATTENTION SELLERS:
LISTINGS NEEDED TO FILL OVERWHELMING
DEMAND FROM BUYERS! CALL ME FOR
A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR
PROPERTY.**



— Barker Kids of the Week —

Southside resident Jim Bradfield
aka "California Jim" will be celebrating his
85th birthday on August 28.

Happy Birthday Jim!



KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

So far this year I've printed EVERY photo
that's been sent in as a
Barker kid-of-the-week ...

but we're always accepting more!

Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the
Week? Want your lawnmower to be Lawn-
mower of the Week?

Mail your photo (with a SASE if you want
it back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd.,
Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock
and stick them in the stone mailbox at my
home (east side), or (even easier) email
them to me at

SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

**My 30 point marketing system is
Dynamic! — Exciting! — Productive! — Creative!
And most importantly GETS RESULTS!**

Offering...

- Drone, professional, and 3-D photography...
- video... TV, print, and magazine advertising...
- internet, email, and social media marketing...
- 3rd party advertising... including Zillow with video
- Luxury Homes international...
- and MORE, MUCH MORE!

I can help you reach MORE buyers!



Real effort. Real results.

Waterfront & Homes

701 Spruce St.
Dowagiac, MI 49047



Dennis Bamber

Cressy & Everett REALTOR
Licensed in Indiana and Michigan

Cell: 574-532-3808



Working in conjunction with Birch Lake resident Rick Doolittle

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Perhaps it's a guilty reflex for partying all summer, or perhaps you're suddenly gripped by common sense, whatever the source, you are now heading into a four-week window where you will become intent on managing your life well. Figure out what duties and responsibilities you have to take care of - prioritize them - and do them.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Once a year, the Sun hypes the part of your chart about romance, the entertainment world, the arts, show business and the hospitality industry. This also includes sports, and working/playing with children. Well, that time has arrived! For the next four weeks, your personal mandate will be to get out and have a good time! Relationships, especially romantic relationships, will be fun. Romance will blossom!

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - As September looms with its back-to-school responsibilities, you will start to focus on home, family and your private life. This focus will stay like this until late September. You want opportunities to cocoon at home and relax among familiar surroundings. Many will be involved with a parent more than usual. For you, this is a time of self-evaluation. This is an excellent month to see a professional counselor. Grab every chance to enjoy time away from the madness - seek solitude. Contemplate, meditate or ponder your life direction.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Get ready for a busy month! Suddenly, your daily pace will accelerate. Your schedule will be booked with appointments and you'll be talking to everyone, especially siblings, relatives and neighbors. Short trips will happen. This is the perfect time for a vacation because you want a change of scenery and a chance to meet new faces and see new places. You're keen to communicate to others now which is why conversations will be involved and lively!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - It's been a fun summer doing your thing - hosting others and being generous with gifts and hospitality. Small wonder that beginning this week, you enter a month where you will focus on money, earnings and cash flow. Naturally, you will think of ways to boost your income or make some money on the side. Some of you might also ponder job changes. But at a deeper level, you will think about your values.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - This week the Sun moves into your sign where it will stay for the next four weeks. It's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. Don't hesitate to put yourself first because this is appropriate. The Sun in your sign will cause you to project yourself more forcefully to others. Oh yeah, this is why you make a great impression on people, however, you do have a great need to express yourself now and it's valid.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Because your birthday is soon approaching, your personal year is drawing to a close. This means that the next month is the perfect time to be reclusive. Seek out some quiet time (with a chilled glass of wine) to think about what you want for your new year ahead. It will behoove you to think of some broad goals. When you set goals, you are more inclined to achieve them because they're in your consciousness every time you make a decision.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - This has been a high viz. summer! People have noticed you more than usual. Fortunately, you made a great impression. Now you're heading into a four-week window where your popularity will increase and you will enjoy hanging with friends and interacting with groups. You might join a club or an organization or take a class. You will feel greater enthusiasm about your goals, which is why you will want to share your hopes and dreams for the future with someone to get their feedback. Wise choice. The month ahead is excellent to work and cooperate with others.

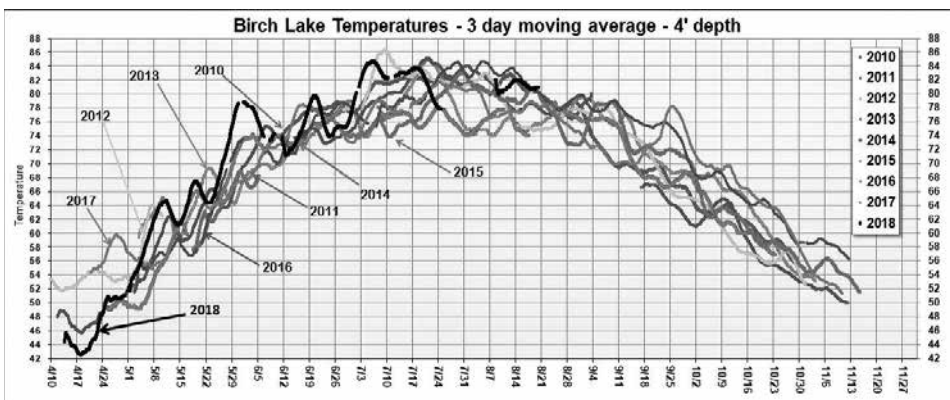
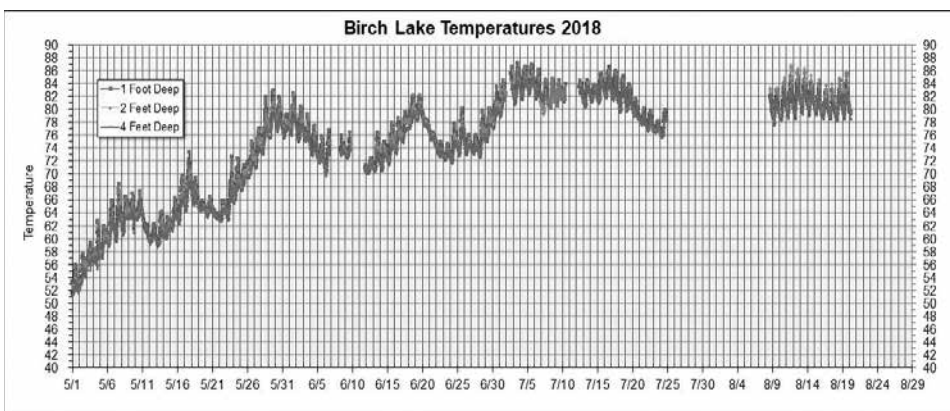
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Once a year, the Sun travels across the top of your chart in a four to six week window of time. This particular phenomenon begins this week. What it symbolizes is that you will suddenly be thrust in the limelight! People will notice you more than usual, especially bosses, teachers and VIPs. But the really good news is that this limelight is flattering. People will admire you and think you are capable and competent even if you don't do anything different.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - During the next four to six weeks, you will so want to travel. That's because you want to get away from all this. You need a change of scenery. You want stimulation, thrills, adventure and a chance to learn something new. Because your curiosity is heightened, this is a favorable time to undertake any kind of new study, or a new hobby or any intellectual discipline.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - This week ushers in a change for the next four weeks. Life will be more intense. Things will matter and they will tend to be serious and more black and white. You might experience strong compulsions or psychological issues surfacing in your life. For many of you, this will be a time of increased self-inquiry or changes to your value structure. You might be more focused on shared property, inheritances and the wealth of your partner or someone else. You might come up against a situation where your values and someone else's values challenge each other.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Starting this week, the Sun will be as far away from you as it gets all year (in your chart) and the Sun represents energy - this means you will need more sleep and more rest. This is not the time of year to go it alone. Make an effort to work with others or form working units. Consult experts. You can learn more about yourself through your intimate one-to-one encounters with others. It's time to examine your closest relationships to see how they fit in your life.

Birch Lake Environmental Data



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.999
0.2 days until full moon



Sunrise: 06:59:54 AM
Sunset: 20:28:13 PM
Moonrise: 14:55:06 PM
Moonset: 00:34:52 AM
Daylight: 13 Hr 28 Min 18 Sec

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —

B	O	U	N	C	E	K	A	R	B	M	G	D
A	Z	X	V	I	O	L	E	N	T	O	D	O
S	L	A	W	Y	E	R	H	I	M	N	E	O
I	P	M	T	H	E	R	E	C	O	E	C	L
C	O	M	M	O	N	A	L	I	T	Y	A	B
H	A	R	A	S	S	E	R	G	H	A	L	T
N	O	I	T	P	I	R	C	S	E	R	P	R
H	R	A	R	I	S	Y	Y	I	R	P	E	I
K	U	N	E	T	S	A	H	R	O	S	R	P
C	O	R	R	A	P	A	L	C	O	H	O	L
A	T	E	D	L	A	B	E	L	T	T	C	E
R	E	E	U	L	A	V	C	R	U	I	S	E
T	D	T	U	Y	E	L	E	C	T	I	O	N

Find the following words:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alcohol ally basic blood bounce brake choice close common- ality cruise detour election halt harass hasten hospital hurdle itchy label lawyer maps meat money mother patch prescription rear replace root score | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> spray story street there track triple value violent years |
|---|---|

Talk With A Live Person



VOTED NILES
BUSINESS OF
THE YEAR!

ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

Complete Plumbing Service - If there's water to it, we do it.

**Let Us Show You Why We Were
Voted Business Of The Year!**

Top 10 Reasons to Choose ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

- Licensed Plumbers
- Drug-Free Employees
- Criminal Background Checked Employees
- No Surprises with the Bill - You know the Cost Before the Work is Done
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- True 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Fully Stocked Trucks - "Warehouse on Wheels"
- Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
- Longest Warranties in the Business
- Our Phones are *Always* Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours



**After Hours
Emergency
Service**



- **Bonus — The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!**

Major Credit Cards Accepted



2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

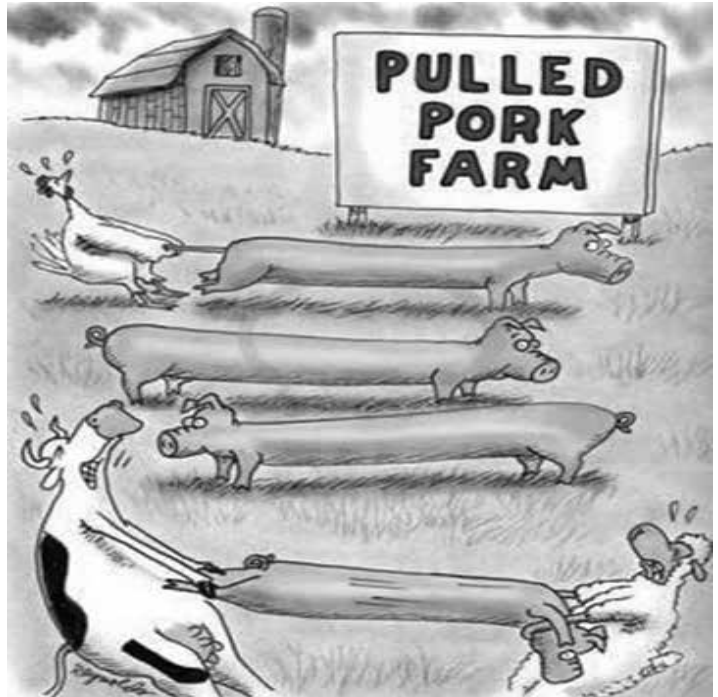
269-687-7192 Niles, MI

866-751-1470 Toll Free

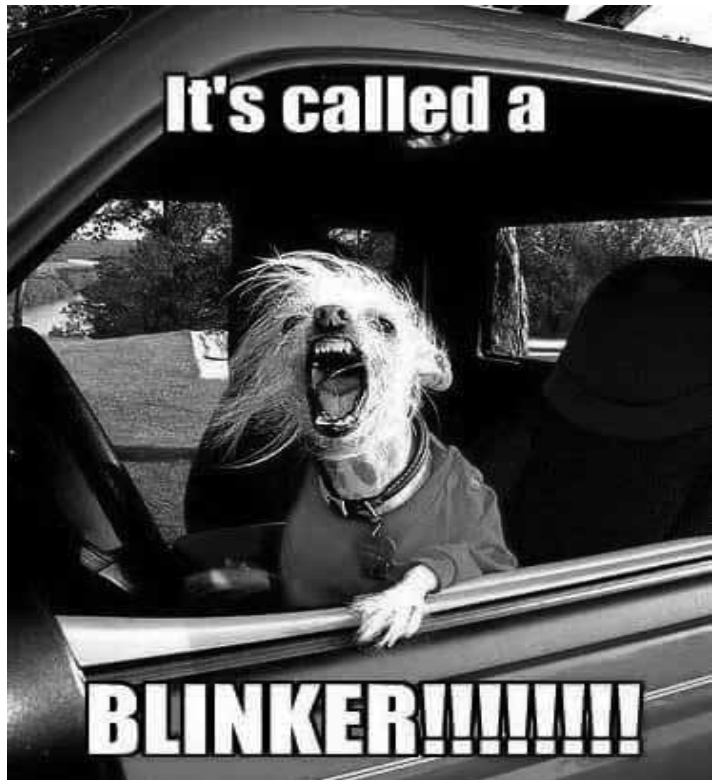
www.advantageplumbinginc.net

BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

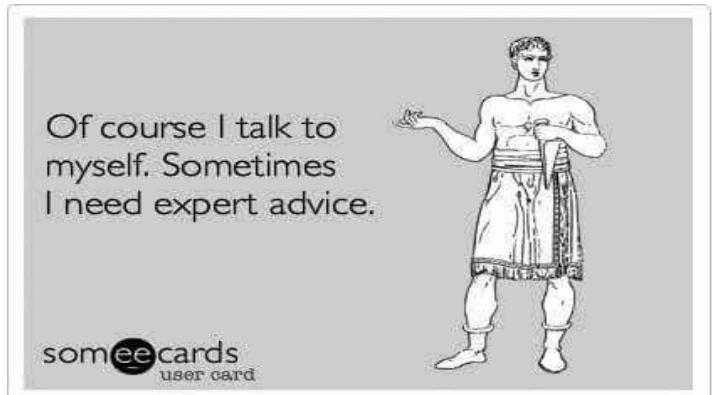
**The Officer Said,
"You're Staggering"
I Said, "You're Quite
Handsome Yourself"
We Just Laughed
And Laughed.
I Need Bail Money.**



**Potatoes make french
fries, chips, and vodka. It's
like the other vegetables
aren't even trying.**



**I PREFER NOT TO THINK
BEFORE SPEAKING. I LIKE
BEING JUST AS SURPRISED
AS EVERYONE ELSE BY
WHAT COMES OUT OF MY
MOUTH.**





~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Walking tacos

Young or old, everyone loves walking taco's. So easy, so fun.

Ingredients

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 (1 ounce) package taco seasoning mix
- 4 (2.5 ounce) packages corn chips
- 2 cups shredded lettuce
- 1 chopped fresh tomato
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/3 cup salsa
- 1/2 cup sour cream

Directions

Place ground beef in a large skillet. Cook and stir over medium heat until browned. Drain excess oil. Mix in the taco seasoning and prepare according to the directions on the package.

With the bags unopened, gently crush the corn chips. Snip the corners off the bags using scissors and slit open the bags along the side edge. Spoon equal amounts of the beef mixture, lettuce, tomato, Cheddar cheese, salsa and sour cream into the bags on top of the crushed chips. Serve in the bag and eat using a fork.



SUMMER
Outdoors
WATER
All we need
now is a
BOAT

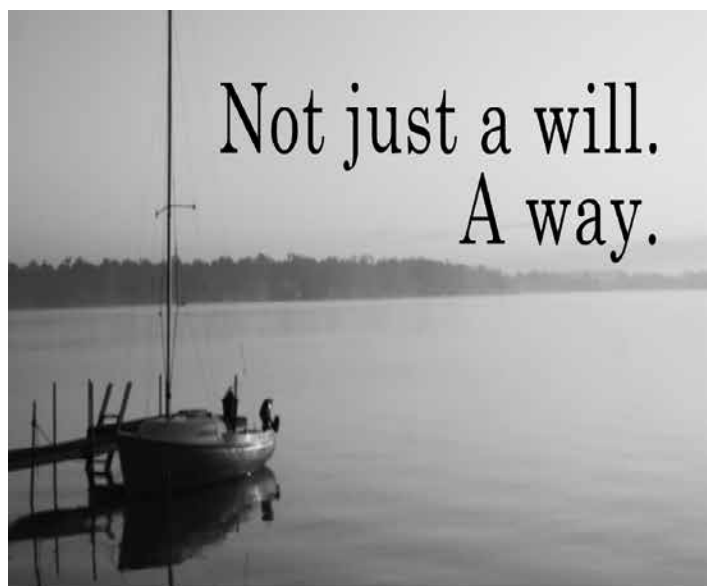
BOAT RENTALS AVAILABLE, ANY LAKE
Pontoons, ski boats, kayaks, fishing boats

PARTS, SERVICE, FUEL,
CONVENIENCE STORE, WINTER STORAGE

Visit our new Lake Boutique !
We have a large selection of lake clothing, signs, home and cottage decor items and much, much more!

County Line Rd. Three Rivers
269~244~5878
www.corylakemarina.com
LIKE US on Facebook





Not just a will.
A way.

Estate planning is more than having a will.
It's a way to protect what matters most.

Learn more about the estate planning capabilities of our firm as well as our business counsel and civil mediation/litigation services.

Visit our website or call us.



TUESLEY • HALL • KONOPA, LLP
attorneys

South Bend • Elkhart • Cassopolis
thklaw.com | 269.445.1818

— Camp Tannadoonah —

After School programs in full swing

Last year around this time we were just launching our first After School program at Good Shepherd Montessori School in South Bend. This year, as we go into school year, we will have two programs, one at Good Shepherd, and one at Cassopolis' Sam Adams Elementary. Some people have asked what we do at the After School programs. One of the things that sets Camp Fire After School programs apart from other after school programs is that we have a defined set of goals and outcome measurement. We aren't there to provide babysitting, or to just supervise the kids while they play in the gym or on the playground.

All Camp Fire programs (across the 50 councils nationwide) use a framework to develop our programs called Thriveology, which was developed in partnership with the Thrive Foundation for Youth. There are four main components of Thriveology: finding sparks, developing a growth mindset, learning goal management strategies, and reflection.

Starting with sparks, we teach kids that your Sparks are the things you are excited and passionate about. We want kids to not only be able to identify their sparks, but also help them explore new things and find

sparks they didn't know they had. At camp, and at after school, we introduce a variety of different activities and programs for kids to try, so that hopefully they will be able to find a new spark and share it with others. We call our after school staff "Spark Champions," instead of teachers or leaders.

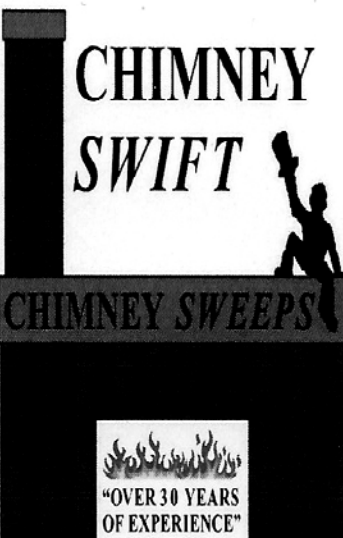
Next is growth mindset. A person with a growth mindset believes that they can improve and develop their skills through effort and practice. By contrast, a person with a fixed mindset tends to believe that they are born with a certain skillset and that they cannot change it. We teach our staff to use language that encourages kids to be persistent and keep working on things that they find challenging. If a child says, "I'm just not good at math," one of our staff might say "You're not good at math, yet! But you can be if you keep practicing."

We also teach goal management skills. One of the things that youth struggle with is setting manageable goals, and then knowing how to readjust their plan if they get off track. So we work with youth to set a goal that isn't so huge that it's too overwhelming to get started, and then teach them how to monitor their progress, and get back on track if they go off course.

The final component is reflection. We leave time at the end of every activity for a brief period of reflection. This might be as simple as asking kids questions about what they liked about the activity and what they didn't like. Or what went well and what they would change next time. Or we might try to dig deeper, and talk about how the activity made them feel frustrated and how they can use that frustration to motivate them.

There are a list of indicators of thriving, and each of our 6-week curricula centers on a different indicator, including connections, character, grit, skills, confidence, etc. In a typical week, on Mondays we do a project focused on one of the traditional Camp Fire "trails" (trail to knowing me, trail to the environment, trail to creativity, trail to the future, trail to family and community). Tuesdays we focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, or math), Wednesdays are a seasonal art project, Thursdays are project-based-learning, and Fridays are outdoor education. We provide a snack every day, and some outdoor or gym time, reading and homework time, and kids' choice time, in addition to the daily planned activities. So that's a week at After School!

~Miss Amber



CHIMNEY SWIFT
CHIMNEY SWEEPS

"OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE"

SERVICES

- CHIMNEY CLEANING
- CHIMNEY RELINING
- CHIMNEY CERTIFICATIONS
- CHIMNEY REPAIRS
- DRYER VENT CLEANING

DEREK POLSTON
(574) 514-4831

www.chimneyswiftchimneysweeps.com



Prime Property Care

Gavin Francis
313 North O'keefe St.
Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 591 9848

- Mowing
- Edging
- Spring/Fall Clean UP
- Hedges
- Gutter Cleaning
- Rock/Mulch Installation

gavinfrancis@rocketmail.com



CAMP TANNADOONAH
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org>

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE



House for sale: 63306 Birch Rd.; 3 BR, 2.5 bath, 2600 SQ FT., 94 FT frontage, 2 stall attached garage, 2 full kitchens, many other extras, \$725,000, call PJ or Sue Vandewalle, 476-7086 for appt or more info.



For sale, 1983 Vagabond 14 sailboat. Good condition. Sails, rudder, and centerboard stored out of the weather. No trailer. If interested call Chris Stevens (South Side) at 317-771-8531. \$750.



We are entertaining offers on a low-mileage four-seat (two pedal two coast) **Sea Ryder pedal boat.** Test rides available ... assuming you pedal. Stop by the King cottage middle of the North shore.

Motorola Modem: Brand new modem compatible with xfinity. Idea for a ranch with walk out. Best offer available. Contact Angela 561-603-5522.

60x40 solid oak table with two match-

ing 15" leaves to make table 75 or 90 inches long. Table pads to fit complete table. Two upholstered captain chairs and four upholstered regular chairs. Call 574-215-5902 or 574-215-3339 to see it.

1950s Heywood Wakefield desk with chair. Solid maple. \$100 OBO. Call 574-215-5902 to see.

CDB Hemp Oil - UltraCell full spectrum CDB hemp oil is the No. 1 hemp oil in the country. It is water-soluble and 94 percent absorption into your system. No THC! If you would like to get a free sample call me, and we can arrange a time. Donna Stevens 317-201-8554. This product has literally changed my life.

Lazy Lodge honey for sale! Local, raw, unprocessed delicious honey ...\$8.00 per lb. Call or text #312-983-0863 and BUZZ on over to get yours before we run out!



"Samantha" American Girl doll with several outfits and accessories. \$150 for all. Contact Debbie at 219-765-8691.

2010 - 20 foot Bennington pontoon w/50 hp Yamaha motor for sale., \$11,000

2009 - 10 foot RID310 Walker Bay dinghy w/performance sail package: \$2,000

2009 - Nissan 6 hp outboard motor (used 3 hours): \$600

Horizon T701 "easy store" treadmill: \$300. Contact: PJ or Sue Vandewalle at 269-476-7086

Green canoe for sale. Square stern, includes paddles. Asking \$300 or best offer. Contact Chas at 574-315-0217

Cooler totes for sale, \$20 each, Holds 20 cans and ice. Size: 16" x 22" x 7-1/2" Long handles for easy carry. Featured at the 2018 men's



golf outing. Limited number available. Proceeds benefit Birch Lake Yacht Club. Contact Chas at 574-315-0217 or chas@grundyhome.com

End of summer sale at Machalleck's! **Sunfish, 14' row boat, 3 - wave runner/ sailboat lifts, sprinkler/lake pumps, lake toys, fishing equipment, tools.** You need it, we might have it!! Call 476-2642 or see it at 14874 Lakeshore Drive.

FOR RENT

Interested in a unique, fun vacation? Check out renting the most inexpensive but cutest and best-located **rental in The Villages,** Florida at ourhome4rent.com/cjp

LOST

Missing: **Two orange dog balls** (hard rubber). Please call Tom or Jan 269-476-7075. Lost: **Black kayak paddle.** Di Wozny at 574-315-4915 Cottage #4 South Side

LOST: **white boat bumper** 20" x 6" diameter. Call 476-2642

SERVICES

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices - zippers, hemming, small alterations; call Kathy at 476-9317

If you are in need of **yard work or animal care** this summer call Claire Brovold at 1(574) 323-3683.

WANTED

Toilet paper rolls and bottle caps (like from Snapple bottles). Contact Amber M. Grundy, 574-387-6095 or email amber@riverbendcampfire.org

I have a friend looking for an **OLD wooden row boat.** He wants to cut the bow off for a decoration, so it does not need to float. He also collects **old wooden oars and old metal buckets.** The American Pickers TV show is coming to his house and barn this September, so he is beefing up his barn. Call or text: Pat McGann 574-532-5377.

2018/19 BLYC Officers and Directors

2018/19 BLYC Officers

Angela Bergan Commodore...561-603-5522
berganfsu@aol.com

Pat McGann Vice Commodore
574-532-5377 pat@mcgannhay.com

Deb Spratt Treasurer (N).....476-2113
debspratt@comcast.net

Mike Sheffek Secretary (W).....476-1849
mcsheff@aol.com

2018 BLYC Directors

Greg Bolin (W).....476-2420
gbolin31@aol.com

Ed Chester (E).....476-1010
ed@chesterlawoffice.com

Harold Cranmer (W).....574-264-6817
dhcranmer@yahoo.com

Past Comm. Karen Curtis-Miller.....574-261-6712
karen.curtis-miller@bayer.com,

Terry Dugan (S).....476-2814
s581122@aol.com

Celia Fallon (E).....476-1467
celia.fallon@gmail.com

Fred Freihofer.....476-9823
cdfreihofer@aol.com

Chas Grundy (H).....476-7062
Chas.grundy@gmail.com

Patty Luecht (E) Past Comm.....476-2615
Pgalloway4@yahoo.com

Sarah Petty (N).....476-7068
sarahkpetty@gmail.com

Vickie Rogers (C).....476-2383
tvrogers@frontier.com

Rick Russwurm (N).....476-2407
paramountp@aol.com

Scott Troeger (E).....476-9898

scott.troeger@btlaw.com

PJ Vandewalle (E).....476-7086

pjvandewalle@gmail.com

Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680

sailorphil@philvitale.com

Sandy Vitale (E).....476-1680

sv6102@gmail.com

Bob Waddle (E).....476-2293

sparkybob220@comcast.net

Sue Williams (S).....476-8886

smwillia@comcast.net

BLYC WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

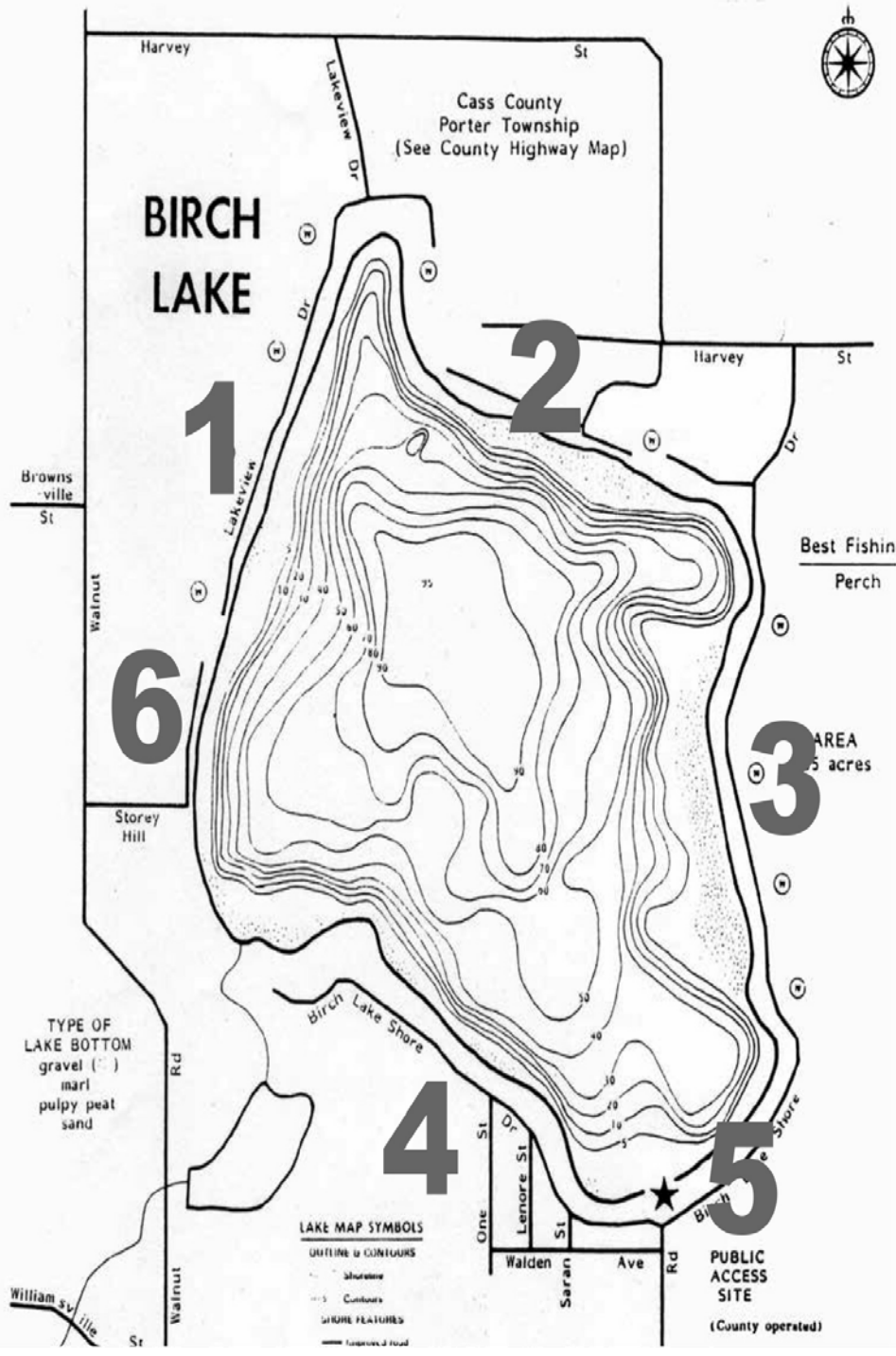
Paul Fallon, Water Quality and Homeowners Association Chairman (E).....476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

CALL 9-1-1



**FOR
EMERGENCY
USE ONLY
ALARM WILL
SOUND**



There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

1. **West Shore, Sheffieck home,**
62875 Birch Lakeview Dr.
2. **North Shore, Smitley home,**
14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
3. **East Shore, Vitale home,**
63174 Birch Rd.
4. **South Shore, Eberhart home,**
15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
5. **South/East Shore, Troeger home,**
63696 Birch Rd.
6. **Southwest Shore, DeYoung home,**
63255 Storey Hill St.

All units are on the ROAD SIDE of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

1. CALL 911 and report the emergency and the patient's location immediately.
2. Pull the box open, remove the orange-colored unit, TAKE IT TO THE PATIENT and open the device by pressing the white lever at the bottom.
3. An automated voice will guide you through the setup and use of the defibrillator. Follow the instructions as they are given.
4. Continue to follow the instructions as given, and stay with the patient until help arrives.



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



Pay your 2018 dues now!

Support the BLYC, support our Birch Lake Community!

- \$ ___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)
- \$ ___ - BLYC Associate Member* Dues (\$10 / year)
*Associate membership is available to current associate members and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC
- \$ ___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ ___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ ___ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ ___ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ ___ - Water Quality Program
- \$ ___ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication
- \$ ___ - Safety Committee
- \$ ___ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$ ___ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$ ___ - **BLYC AED Fund**
- \$ ___ - Misc.

Total contribution:

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

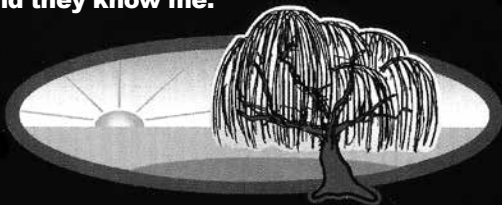
Make checks payable to

BLYC

c/o Deb Spratt, Treasurer
18100 Farmington Hills Dr.
South Bend, IN 46637

Want to buy or sell a house? I can help in so many ways!

It made sense to open a real estate brokerage in the area I have lived and worked for so many years. I love this part of Michigan! I love the lakes, the farm fields, the local businesses, the people! When I worked in township government, I saw how hard it can be to navigate the system ... for a variance, a permit, a land split, a lot-line adjustment, an appeal for a change due to an error on a property tax assessment. I can help with all of that! And when it comes to real estate, I'm committed to YOU. I use the same tools as other, larger brokerages, but I work harder and smarter. Read my testimonials at WillowTreeRealty.com. I am the best choice to sell your property or find you one here. I'm local, I'm sincere, I have proven experience. I know the community, and they know me.



Willow Tree Realty

13549 U.S. 12 / UNION, MI 49130

Vickie Hall

CELL - 574-849-9957
WillowTreeRealty.com

OFFICE - 269-641-7928
willowtree.vickie@gmail.com

O'Donnell's Docks LLC

Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



*Serving you for
over 20 years!*

*Sales and service of all
major docks, boatlifts and
water front accessories.*

For an online quote, go to

www.odonnellsdocks.com



12097 M-60 • Jones, MI
269-244-1446

info@odonnellsdocks.com

Authorized Dealer For:

HEWITT LSP inc.



ShoreStation

Roll-n-Go





The Luxury Floating Patio!
Moor it all summer
or add a motor.



TORQUEEDO

High-Powered
Electric Propulsion System



ULTRA LEGS

The Ultimate Pontoon
Lighting System



Before



HYDROSWEEP

Improving waterfronts
by reducing aquatic
vegetation growth.



After



LEHR
Environmentally Friendly Technology

Propane-Powered
Eliminates fuel issues.



LSP inc.
Lakeshore Products

Boat Lifts
Docking Systems
Accessories



REVOLUTIONARY PRODUCTS FOR A NEW AGE IN BOATING



BoatButlerMarine.com

Offered by Boat Butler, LLC • Cassopolis, MI.

land: 269-476-2222 sea: 312-399-3688

INDOOR BOAT STORAGE

Summer trailer storage included



Service Above and Beyond

PUTTING "SERVICE" IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

Repairs, Maintenance, Winterizing, and more!

OPEN 8 DAYS A WEEK

By Appointment

We're here when you need us!

SELL YOUR BOAT

We Buy & Sell Boats, Personal Watercraft & Boat Lifts!

BUY A BOAT

Boats, Motors, Lifts, PWCs & more!



Boat Butler llc

269-476-2222

Or text 312-399-3688 Dave

www.boatbutlermarine.com

Cassopolis, MI 49031

We've Got You Covered!



**SUMMER'S HERE!
CALL US TODAY!**

- Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios
- Roll Curtains for Screened Porches
- Boat Covers and Tops
- Canvas Repair
- Aluminum Awnings



SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

**Call us for a free
at-home
demonstration!**



**Locally owned
and operated
since 1985**

**SUN
& SHADE
AWNING**

12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

269 244-5307
www.sunandsshadeawning.com